

Service Date: October 30, 2003

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF NORTHWESTERN)	UTILITY DIVISION
ENERGY, Monthly Gas Cost Tracker /)	
Projected Gas Cost (Interim))	DOCKET NO. D2003.7.97
)	ORDER NO. 6519

PROTECTIVE ORDER

On August 18, 2003, NorthWestern Energy (NWE) filed before the Public Service Commission (PSC) a Motion for Protective Order to govern certain information expected to be filed in NWE's monthly gas cost tracker / projected gas cost filings. NWE requests protection of information relating to natural gas supply, specifically the details associated with gas supply, gas supply costs, and gas supply contracts which relate to NWE's prospective 12-month forecast period. NWE argues that the identified information is trade secret in accordance with § 30-14-402, MCA.

The PSC determines NWE has shown good and sufficient cause in fact and law that the information for which protection is requested is entitled to protection from uncontrolled public disclosure pursuant to § 69-3-105, MCA. Therefore, the PSC grants NWE's request and hereby orders that information submitted in accordance with this Order be treated as "confidential information" under the terms of this Order and PSC protective order rules, ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030.

This Order applies to all NWE monthly gas cost trackers filed under the PSC's interim approval of such procedure, under future final approval (if any) of the procedure, and future-year implementations of the procedure. This protective order is subject to challenge pursuant to PSC protective order rules and may be modified with notice.

Done and dated this 9th day of September, 2003, by a vote of 5-0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

BOB ROWE, Chairman

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice-Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: There is no reconsideration of the granting of a protective order. There is a procedure to challenge the provider's claim of confidentiality. See ARM 38.2.5008.

Montana Public Service Commission
Protective Orders and Protection of Confidential Information

Nondisclosure Agreement

(7-26-00)

ARM 38.2.5012

Docket No. D2003.7.97, Order No. 6519
Order Action Date: October 30, 2003

I understand that in my capacity as counsel or expert witness for a party to this proceeding before the commission, or as a person otherwise lawfully so entitled, I may be called upon to access, review, and analyze information which is protected as confidential information. I have reviewed ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030 (commission rules applicable to protection of confidential information) and protective orders governing the protected information that I am entitled to receive. I fully understand, and agree to comply with and be bound by, the terms and conditions thereof. I will neither use nor disclose confidential information except for lawful purposes in accordance with the governing protective order and ARM 38.2.5001 through 38.2.5030 so long as such information remains protected.

I understand that this nondisclosure agreement may be copied and distributed to any person having an interest in it and that it may be retained at the offices of the provider, commission, consumer counsel, any party and may be further and freely distributed.

Typed or Printed Name

Signature

Date of Signature

Business Address:

Employer

Party Represented